REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-7 are amended.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Joerger during the December 14, 2006 personal interview are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 4.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tsurumi et al. (Tsurumi), U.S. Patent No. 6,070,867. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tsurumi fails to disclose or suggest a rotary clutch device with a rotatable cam body separated from a drive gear in a radial direction so as to form a space therebetween, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 5 and 6.

As discussed during the personal interview, Tsurumi's drive gear 4 is inserted into a recess formed in both of the notched gears 6, 14 and the drive gear 4 is engaged with both of the notched gears 6, 14. Tsurumi thus fails to disclose or suggest a rotatable cam body separated from the drive gear 4 in a radial direction so as to form a space therebetween.

Tsurumi also fails to disclose or suggest a rotary clutch device with a second rotating body that is smaller in diameter than a first rotating body, as recited in claim 7. As illustrated in Tsurumi's Fig. 1A, the first notched gear 14 and the second notched gear 6 have the same diameter. Tsurumi thus fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 7.

Tsurumi also fails to disclose or suggest a rotary clutch device with an impact absorber disposed between the first rotating body and the second rotating body to absorb an impact that occurs when the engagement portion is engaged with the second rotating body, as recited in claim 9.

Tsurumi's spring 10 is disposed between the first notched gear 14 and the second notched gear 6. As illustrated in Fig. 3D, when the first notched gear 14 further rotates, the spring 10 generates an elastic force and the second notched gear 6 is further rotated by the elastic force (col. 7, lines 36-41). Thereafter, locking pawl 13 is caught by the locking pawl 7a of the solenoid 7 and the gear is stopped.

The spring 10 is used to engage the locking pawl 13 with the locking pawl 7a, and thus creates the impact rather than absorb an impact that occurs when an engagement portion is engaged with a second rotating body, as recited in claim 9. Tsurumi thus fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 9.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:
Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: December 28, 2006

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